

**WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:**

1. A sheet delivery mechanism comprising:

offset rollers rotatably supported for discharging a sheet in a sheet transport direction;

an offset unit rotatably supporting the offset rollers;

an offsetting force generator for shifting the offset unit back and forth along a direction perpendicular to the sheet transport direction between a reference stop position and an offset stop position relative to a housing of an apparatus; and

an offset unit swinging mechanism for swinging the offset unit about an axis parallel to rotary shafts of the offset rollers in such a manner that a sheet output direction in which the offset rollers eject the sheet varies to a direction pointing away from a sheet delivery tray when the offset unit is shifted along the direction perpendicular to the sheet transport direction by the offsetting force generator.

2. The sheet delivery mechanism according to claim 1, wherein the offset unit swinging mechanism includes a guide groove at least part of which is inclined with respect to the sheet transport direction and a projection slidably fitted in the guide groove, and wherein one of the guide

groove and the projection is disposed on the offset unit and the other is disposed on the housing of the apparatus.

3. The sheet delivery mechanism according to claim 1 further comprising a sheet squeezer, wherein the offset rollers are a pair of upper and lower offset rollers and the sheet squeezer exerts a downward pushing force against the sheet being ejected from between the upper and lower offset rollers from the side of the upper offset roller to force the sheet toward the sheet delivery tray.

4. The sheet delivery mechanism according to claim 3, wherein an one end of the sheet squeezer is mounted loosely on the rotary shaft of the upper offset roller and the other end of the sheet squeezer extends downward beyond a point of contact between the upper and lower offset rollers.

5. The sheet delivery mechanism according to claim 1 further comprising a roller turning force generator for turning the offset rollers, wherein the offsetting force generator and the roller turning force generator are simultaneously operated to discharge the sheet being transferred.

6. The sheet delivery mechanism according to claim 1,

wherein the offset rollers can be shifted to more than one stop position from the reference stop position.